

Governor Baldacci's
Task Force Promoting Safer Chemicals in Consumer Products
Wednesday, July 11,, 2007 12:30PM-3:30 PM
Rm 105 Cross Office Building (COB), Augusta, Maine
MINUTES

Attendees:

Task Force members: David Littell, Brian Dancause, Sharon Tisher, Mike Belliveau
Nick Bennett, Mark Dobrovolny, Stacie Beyer, John Wise
Other Task Force: Ron Ahlquist for Dana Graham
Interested Parties?

Work Groups

Green Chemistry Work Group

- Mark Dobrovolny and Mike Belliveau are working on a Green Chemistry Summit, which is scheduled for October 26 at USM's Portland campus. The PLA from plastics opportunity will be highlighted, but John Wise offered to invite a nano expert from UMass-Lowell.
- John Wise summarized his draft narrative on nano technology. In short, while there are numerous commercial applications of nano, very little is known about the toxicology of nano materials. The Green Chemistry Work Group is recommending that a working group be convened to explore nano and balance the benefits and risks. The group would partner with industry to set priorities and quantify optimal R&D resources. With strong nano toxicology R&D capacity, Maine could position itself as an attractive location for businesses seeking to commercialize nano technologies.

Chemical Policy and Information Work Groups

- Sharon Tisher volunteered to provide a brief summary on biomonitoring (what and where) for our final report.
- We discussed Stacie Beyer's recommendation on biomonitoring and we wordsmithed it. Stacie will send you a copy of the way we ended with it.
- We discussed the other recommendations, as suggested only the ones that hadn't gone through the process. We felt that the Policy Elements (PE) needed some greater discussion. The whole group agreed and suggested we discuss PEs at our next meeting.
- We felt ii.A should be combined with WG.iii.2 and these we closely aligned with PE4.
- ii.D. we understand that legislator Bartlett had a bill in this term relating to this. The final outcome was the Bartlett Resolution was passed which was similar to ii.D although voluntary. Our recommendation is: Is to evaluate the voluntary compliance and to see if it is workable and the premium paid for the products is acceptable.
- iii.A. We felt that updating and maintenance of a web page was crucial.

iii.B. PL 302 was passed from LD #1798. The unfortunate change was no funding—at this point the 15 cents on a container was removed. We recommended that a reliable and sustainable method of funding the law be found.

Other Business

Contact Stacie Beyer announced that Interface Fabric has applied for a \$1million potato-based PLA R&D grant from USDA. Partners include UMaine and the Maine Potato Board among others.

Next meetings: Wed September 12, 2006 No August meeting

Task Force Safer Chemicals Planning Agenda	NO AUGUST MEETING	Wed Sept 12	Wed Sept 26	Oct 1 FINAL REPORT DUE October meetings likely
Room 105 –Cross Office Building Augusta, Me 12:30-3:30	NO AUGUST MEETING			